Review of Narmada Project

2097. SHRI KAPIL VERMA:
KUMARI ALIA:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister, Mr. S.L. Patwa's statement that his Government wanted the Centre to re-examine the Narmada Project; and

(b) if so, what is Central Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI MANUBHAI KOTADIA): (a) No such request has been received from the State Government.

(b) Does not arise.

Opening of bank branches in rural areas

2098. SHRI N. E. BALARAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to go slow on the branch expansion of nationalised banks in rural areas; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE). (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Direction to banks and tax officials to unearth black money

2099. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have recently directed all banks and tax officials to unearth black money and catch tax offenders in the country;

(b) if so, whether Government are aware that a large number of bank accounts are being operated in fictitious names in the country; and

(c) if so, what steps banks and tax officials have taken to unearth black money in the country?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) to (c) Combating tax evasion is a continuous process and the Government take necessary steps from time to time to curb the generation, growth and use of black money. These measures include, *inter-alia*;

(i) Systematic survey operations;

(ii) Search and seizure operations in appropriate cases;

(iii) Verification of information in a planned manner; and

(iv) Indepth investigation in manageable number of selected cases.

Some instances of suspected benami accounts have come to the notice of the Income Tax Department. Central Bureau of Investigation is also investigating into some of these accounts. The Reserve Bank of India has also issued detailed instructions to the banks to ensure that benami of fictitious accounts are not opened by them. Banks have also been advised that they must extend necessary help/coordination to the tax officials whenever required.

Providing speed boats to the customs authorities to combat Smuggling on the Goa Coast

2100. SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 47 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 15th March, 1990 and state:

(a) whether Government are aware that rise in smuggling activities on